



PUEBLO OF SAN FELIPE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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March 17, 2000

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(34)

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

DOCKET NUMBER
PROPOSED RULE 71 + 73
(64FR 71331)

**RE: Comments on Proposed Amendments to
Nuclear Regulatory Commission ("NRC") Regulations**

Dear Secretary:

I write on behalf on the Pueblo of San Felipe ("the Pueblo"), a federally-recognized Indian tribe whose lands are located in New Mexico; to comment on the proposed NRC amendments that would require nuclear waste generators to notify tribal officials of radioactive waste shipments before they are transported to or through tribal lands. The Pueblo supports the NRC's proposed amendments. Tribal governments have the same concerns about the safety of their people and territory as do state governments and, therefore, should receive the same notification of radioactive waste shipments that state governments do.

As you may be aware, the Pueblo is located approximately mid-way between Albuquerque and Santa Fe. Interstate 25 runs through the Pueblo's reservation, and radioactive waste is, we believe, now and in the future to be routinely transported on I-25 to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant located in Carlsbad. The Pueblo has a great interest in being told when shipments of such a sensitive nature travel through its reservation. As with any other sensitive information, the Pueblo would maintain whatever confidentiality the NRC would require.

The Pueblo appreciates this opportunity to comment on the proposed amendments. We look forward to reviewing a Proposed Rule that reflects the NRC's recognition of the sovereignty of Native American tribes.

Sincerely,

PUEBLO OF SAN FELIPE


Sam Candelaria, Governor